

MANUFACTURING EXTENSION PARTNERSHIP

Success Stories from the Field

Harden Manufacturing

Alabama Technology Network

Harden Manufacturing Creates A Safer Plant, Saves Money

Client Profile:

Harden Manufacturing, founded in 1972, produces furniture for the retail furniture sector. This furniture includes bedroom furniture, coffee and end tables, and curios. Located in Haleyville, Alabama, the company employs 300 people.

Situation:

Harden Manufacturing was experiencing alarming increases in work-related injuries during the calendar years of 2000 and 2001. In 2001, the company reported 101 injuries. With costs related to these injuries in excess of \$1.2 million, the company knew it needed to take action and address the plant's safety issues. The company contacted the Alabama Technology Network (ATN), a NIST MEP network affiliate, for assistance.

Solution:

ATN-Muscle Shoals conducted baseline Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) training at Harden Manufacturing in both English and Spanish. ATN also provided a comprehensive safety and health assessment to help the company prioritize an action plan that addressed the highest risk issues first. By proactively raising employee awareness and continuously improving its safety program, Harden Manufacturing has seen significant reductions in workplace accidents and costs associated with accidents.

Results:

Reduced accident rate by 38 percent.
Estimating an injury-related cost savings of \$581,000.
Continuing to decrease injury rate year-over-year.

Testimonial:

"Through the Alabama Technology Network, we have been able to work together and learn how to identify hazards within our facilities and how to correct them to prevent accidents. This has been a great success for Harden; by preventing accidents, OSHA violations, and compliance issues, the impact of cost reduction has been and will continue to be cost saving with an increased profit for the company."

Kimberly Wilson, Safety and Health Coordinator

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